

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 4333 ACTION SECSTATE INFO EC BRUSSELS,
COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, PARIS, ROME, BRUSSELS, LONDON, LUXEMBOURG,
THE HAGUE, DUSSELDORF, MARCH 17TH:

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EC, GATT, GW

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION:

FLOAT GLASS

REF: BONN 1836, STATE 44562

1. IN COURSE OF INITIAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED
FLOAT GLASS SUBSIDIES, FRG ECONOMICS MINISTRY
AND STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LIMITED INFORMATION
GIVEN TO CUSTOMS ATTACHE TO GENERAL DESCRIPTION
OF VARIOUS INVESTMENT AID PROGRAMS FROM WHICH
THE FIRMS INVOLVED BENEFITED. AFTER CONSULTING
WITH RICHARD SELF, TREASURY, DURING HIS RECENT
VISIT TO FRANKFURT, EMBASSY SOUGHT TO OBTAIN
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MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING ACTUAL BENEFITS

RECEIVED BY THE FIRMS.

2. IN A DISCUSSION OF PRESENT STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION WITH KUEHN IN ECONMINISTRY, WE POINTED OUT THAT IN ABSENCE SPECIFIC FIGURES FROM FRG, TREASURY WILL HAVE ONLY THOSE FIGURES SET FORTH IN COMPLAINT TO RELY UPON. KUEHN EXPLAINED THAT IT IS FRG POLICY TO LEAVE DECISIONS TO THE FIRMS THEMSELVES CONCERNING EXTENT INFORMATION THEY WISH TO PROVIDE. KUEHN OFFERED TO DISCUSS THE INVESTIGATION WITH THE FIRMS AND TO SEE WHETHER THEY WOULD BE WILLING ALLOW STATE AND FEDERAL FRG GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION. SEVERAL DAYS LATER, KUEHN INFORMED US THAT HE HAD FAILED TO REACH APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO FIRMS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT ATTACH ANY SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS INVESTIGATION. HE RECOMMENDED THAT WE CLOSE OUR INVESTIGATION IN FRG WITH THE INFORMATION WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY GATHERED. CUSTOMS ATTACHE'S REPORT IS BEING COMPLETED AND WILL BE FORWARDED BY MARCH 20.

3. KUEHN NOTED THAT 113 COMMITTEE HAD DISCUSSED EC COMMISSION REPORT OF ITS FEBRUARY 12 DISCUSSIONS WITH US IN WASHINGTON AND THAT A NUMBER OF BILATERAL CONTACTS BETWEEN EC CAPITALS HAVE OCCURRED. HE THOUGHT THAT IN THE END THE EC WOULD HAVE TO TAKE A COORDINATED STANCE, PERHAPS PROTESTING THAT US COUNTERVAILING DUTIES NOT JUSTIFIED BY GATT ARTICLE 6. HOWEVER, AT THIS STAGE EC MEMBERS ARE INCLINED ONLY TO REPEAT THEIR VIEW THAT REGIONAL AIDS DO NOT CONSTITUTE COUNTERVAILABLE SUBSIDIES. IN THE CASE OF FRG IN PARTICULAR, KUEHN STRESSED THAT REGIONAL AIDS ARE NOT DESIGNED TO AID EXPORTS, BUT ONLY TO COMPENSATE FOR COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGES DUE TO LOCATION OF RECIPIENT FIRMS.
HILLENBRAND UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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